

# Altos *news*

Nº 219 . MAY 2023



PINHEIROS ALTOS  
GOLF CLUB





## Introduction from the Captain

### Mr Steve Coull

Greetings and welcome to the Captain's report for April! The first month has been an incredible experience, learning new things every day. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all your kind words and best wishes. Your overwhelming support means a lot, and as your club's Captain, I am simply the channel for your positivity.

The AGM lived up to our expectations, the room was filled to capacity, and we extend a heartfelt gratitude to all attendees who actively participated, proving that we all possess a voice, which when united, has every right to be listened too, your perspectives are encouraged and valued.

The drive in, not as knee trembling as it looks, a big thank you to everyone who made it to the first tee and participated in the festivities. Also, a special thankyou to Claire Bamber for providing the delicious canapés, which were a huge hit, which is more than can be said for my drive, no need to mention this but it's worth acknowledging that Jago Keyter emerged as the winner of the flag competition, without causing any detrimental wear to the fairway or having to walk a significant distance!

Past Captains Day lunch was an absolute hoot, with the lure of a complimentary lunch and the potential of a free limited edition Rolex watch being responsible for swelling the numbers. Nigel

and I also received some valuable (solicited) guidance on how to make the most of our time as Captains, and we're both eagerly anticipating next year's event (and the watch!). The star of the show was Walter Dixon who I believe was the first ever Captain of PA, a very funny, engaging and extremely interesting gentleman soon to reach the ripe old age of 90 in July.

Our recent reception to welcome new members was a fantastic way to meet some of our newest additions, so please let's make sure we show them how much we value their presence in our "PA family".

Congratulations to all the competition winners. Christophe has already filled you in on the details, so I won't bore you with a repeat, just to say congratulations to everyone who played and participated, particularly the winners, with some great victory stories and tales of woe from the rest of us!

The Easter Scramble, which has to be one of the most popular events in the calendar, it was super to see everyone laughing and enjoying themselves, fabulous fun it really was. With a truly international team pipping us all to the post shooting a net 59.5 net!! There is a video link for this with some drone footage on the App, button bottom right, please take the time to check this out.

The Strokeplay Championship took place over two intense days of competition, presenting a potentially daunting challenge, as it's played off the back tees. However, it proved to be an excellent test of concentration, ball striking and course management. But, with a range of prizes available for all levels of play, the event drew one of the largest fields in recent years. Congratulations and gratitude to all who participated; it was a fantastic event, with almost half the field being from the girls, so well done. Regrettably, I couldn't attend as I was sat in front of a rather unimpressed heart surgeon, who had already had his own bypass (humour)!

Graham Burgess and I arranged a game with his buddies from his former club, Sonning GC, located near Reading. We treated them to breakfast before we went on to defeat them 4-0. Kudos to Graham and the entire PA team for an excellent day.

They left for the UK with their golfing confidence and livers in tatters. Nonetheless, they had a tremendously positive experience

of our golf club, including the course, staff, and the people. Congratulations to everyone involved in making it a resounding success on all fronts.

It appears that the upcoming month will be a bit more relaxed, but there are still several noteworthy events that we would greatly appreciate your attendance and support. These include Blevins Francs Seminar on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, as well as the always-entertaining mixed pairs match play, grab a partner and get involved. Additionally, on June 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting our first "Picnic on the Green", complete with music and entertainment. I highly encourage you to check the APP and notice board for further details, as this promises to be an enjoyable evening for all involved.

The preparations for the upcoming PA Charity Event, scheduled for Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, are underway. This year, we have decided to expand the team allocations from 32 to 40, with priority being given to those who lent their support last year. We really need your support in many ways and there will be news going out within the next few weeks. Your backing would be greatly appreciated.

Well, it's clear that no matter where we all come from or what we once did or indeed still do, we all have a shared passion for trying to whack a tiny white ball, with sticks around a nice green field. Whether you're a CEO or a caddy, a youngster or a senior, regardless of gender or country of origin, we can all bond over the thrill of the chase and the joy of the swing. After all, there's nothing like spending a beautiful day here in our Algarvian paradise whilst trying to get that pesky white ball into a tiny hole, and trying not to curse too loudly when it doesn't go where you want it to. It's a game that bonds us together, even if we have nothing else in common besides the love for the game. So, let's grab our clubs, hit the fairway, and enjoy the camaraderie of the game that we all know and love.

Play well, but more importantly just have fun.

*Steve*









*Captain's Drive In*





*Captain's Drive In Prize Winners*

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*Easter Scramble Prize Winners*

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*Various Tournaments Prize Winners*





## Director of Golf – Monthly Report

April and Easter time is as usual the busiest time as members are concerned as most members come to Portugal for the Easter Holidays.

It is also the time of the AGM which went well and saw some restructure of the golf committee being approved. These are published in this newsletter. I would like to remind all members that all the position on the committee are up for election every 3 years and that any member willing to show their interest in serving the committee should show that interest to the committee in order to be considered for election when positions become vacant. We have many new members joining the club this year and hope that they will also take an active voice amongst our various committees.

The captain drive win was a full house and I would like to wish both the Club Captain Steve Coull and Lady Captain Melody Cotterill a great year. Both are very enthusiastic and are willing

to change the world and I am sure will bring many new ideas to the running of the golf club. I would also like to welcome our Vice Captain Nigel Spokes & the Lady Vice Captain Heather Conroy to the committee and look forward to work with them. Also 2 new addition on our Golf Committee are Chris Soden & Nico de Ruiter which I am sure will bring even more experience to the Golf Committee.

I would like to remember the membership that the golf committee has limited power as all of the golf operation is down to the Company JJW. The committee will make decision on running club matters, mainly competition and members events but has no say on the investment made into the golf course as this is solely down to the company. The Golf committee however will act as an advisor or even a consultant for the company represented by myself during the committee meetings. Many of the items brought to the committee will be taken into consideration when



taking company decision. Over the years this format has shown to work well and benefit both sides as this is the nearest members club in the area being a proprietary golf course.

24 Golf titles have been sold since November 2022 and has now raised to 25.000 euros however we have no resales and the company will sell a maximum of 4 titles at that rate until it increases again to 30.000 euros. This shows the advantage given to members especially with the exclusive starting time and the better quality of the course is resulting in the increase of number of members. The intention is to continue to increase the membership to be less reliant of green-fee players which are so variable from one year to another.

The Golf course is improving and from the last week of May and for the extension of approximately 4 weeks we will have some heavier maintenance carried out mainly on Fairways to hollow tine & scarify as well as light solid tinning to the greens. We will have 9 holes closed for most of those 4 weeks so we would like to ask for the members patience while we are working on improving the course. As from July the course should be recovered from all the works and we will have another 3 weeks session of heavier work during the month of August to prepare for the high season. I must congratulate António Povoas our green-keeper and his team on their hard work on the course.

April is also a busy month for competition which started with the Spring Medal where young junior Jago Keyter shot a 65 net but the board winner was Dawn Warnock with a 70 net beating Dan Henderson & Willi Hofer on the back nine! On the Following day (Easter Day) we had our usual Easter Scramble with a great turn out of 110 players & 130 for lunch. Another good day with great atmosphere in the club and the winning team of John & Tanya Scouler, Robert & Majida Lester together with Sergey Naumov.

Also played during Easter is the usual APPA tournament which gather many property owners and the day was won by Debbie



*Appa winners Paul Cotterill and Debbie Carver*

Carver & Paul Cotterill. On the previous day Blevins Franks hosted a new members cocktail which introduce many of the new members to the Golf Club Committee and since then many of the temporary members have now become full members by purchasing a Golf Title and we welcome all our new members to the Club and wish them great times. If any new member needs information please do not hesitate to contact me or Cristina in the golf office or even communicate to the committee your concerns or thoughts.

Also played during Easter was the Cloggies V the ladies which I will let your Lady Captain communicate the score! Congratulations to John Carver on winning the April Stableford with 42 points.

The last but not the least event in April was the Stroke-play Championship which is hold on 2 days of playing on the back tees and saw one of the best turn out in years especially in the ladies' section which more than doubled from last year! The Club Champion after being beaten on the first day by Runner Up Campbell Warnock was Dan Henderson with scores of 76 & 77 and the Lady Club Champion was Susan Russell with a total of 178. Both of them have now won it for 6 times. Congratulations to Paula Burke Hickey who was the Lady Runner up and also Tony Hickey who won the best men's Net while Diana Collins was the best net for the ladies!

It has been a very busy start for both the Club Captain & the Lady Captain and there is plenty more to come. The ben Hogan in early June and also Portuguese day, the picnic on the green and of course the Captain's Day on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 and later that month the Gala Week which I hope to see many new members taking part.

I wish all the members great golfing and look forward to see many of you at the club activities over the next few weeks.





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*New Members Cocktail*





*Stroke Play Championship Prize Winners*





## Eventos de Golfe *Golf Events* by **JJW HOTELS**

HOTEL	EVENTO / TORNEIO EVENT / TOURNAMENT	DATAS DATES
Penina Hotel & Golf Resort	Sir Henry Cotton Trophy	27/05/2023
Dona Filipa Hotel	International Amateur Tournament	25/11/2023 – 02/12/2023
Dona Filipa Hotel	Amateur Senior Tour	18/02/2024 – 25/02/2024
Dona Filipa Hotel	Spring Amateur Tournament	23/03/2024 – 30/03/2024





TIM RUSSELL ran the London Marathon on April 23 as many of you know/ reported in the last newsletter. He and his daughter crossed the rain swept finish line together in just less than 5 hours and slightly ahead of a 30 year old royal marine (albeit he was carrying a fridge on his back ...a truly amazing world record for Sam Hammond and Fridget Jones.)

And more importantly for Tim and Olivia than their time they raised some £100,000 for DEBRA and Prostate Cancer. Most of the 50,000 runners supported wonderful charities but he asked us to newsletter thanks all the many members who kindly and contributed to their causes.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS  
**PLEASE CHECK THE APP!**





## Ladies Section – by Melody Cotterill

What a fabulous April we had!

So delighted that the weather has been so good. I think every incoming Captain dreads a Drive In in the rain!

Fortunately the day of the Ladies AGM was a sunny one which I am sure helped guarantee we had a great attendance. Paula my predecessor reflected on her year - what a great one it was, getting back to the levels of enjoyment we had pre Covid. As you all know Paula is no longer on the Committee but fortunately I know she is always available to help if needed. My Ladies committee now consists of Heather Conroy as Lady Vice Captain. Ingrid Blain, Debbie Carver and Lucy Pye. Our role is to represent all the Lady Members of PA, and most importantly to ensure that everyone gets the most out of their membership of our club.

I am sure you are all aware of the additional information on the App please do use it and if you have any problem with it contact the Director of Golf's office.

May is already proving to be a great golfing month helped by fabulous weather - so please enjoy your golf and I look forward to seeing all members at the club soon.

Opps - I almost forgot the Ladies fabulous victory over the Cloggies but a 10 6 victory must be mentioned. Thank you Knut and the Cloggies for a fun day and always being so gracious in defeat!





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*Ladies AGM and Prize Winners*





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*Ladies Drive In*





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*Ladies Drive In Lunch and Prize Winners*





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*Ladies V Cloggies Lunch*



## Report from the Greens Committee

The full committee met on Wednesday the 10 May together with the Captain who asked to observe together with Christophe's assistant Roger who will assist him in answering member's queries on course condition.

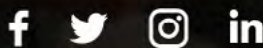
It may be useful for members to be reminded how this committee came about.

The writer was asked to manage the committee when he became vice captain. His qualifications were his low handicap (at that time) and his experience on UK golf committees as both Captain and President and his love of grass!

Both the other members are very experienced with golf club committees and with their low handicaps understood the challenge of maintaining good golf course conditions. Other members who have been co-opted when a vacancy occurred soon became weary of the difficulties of finding extra funding for changes to course conditions. This is not a members club and members have no power over expenditure we can only make the "case".

The relationship with STRI brought about by Christophe has been very helpful in putting the argument for course improvement.

## Follow us on social media.





## **COURSE CONDITION**

### **Greens**

Antonio has done an excellent job in maintaining good greens which both fulfil STRI recommendations and please both members and visitors for their appearance, speed and accuracy.

The availability of chemicals to prevent irrigation sliding over the turf has been an important factor.

### **Fairways**

The fairways show dryness and poor growth. We know that irrigation for golf clubs is a sensitive subject and although we have bore holes many courses in the Algarve are working with very restricted water which shows with brown fairways and uneven rough. The authorities have power to restrict our water and Antonio is being careful. We show enough "brown" to show we are restricting watering!

Despite this concern Antonio intends to close the three nine holes week by week at the end of this month into June. The fairways will be scarified and tined and then fertilised and watered. If all goes to plan and we are allowed to irrigate or we have rain the fairways should be much improved in June.

We would hope the government will take urgent plans to find a way of filling reservoirs!

### **Tees**

Sanding and resting tees has shown general improvement and we hope to return to holes which are not too long or short with temporary tees!

### **Bunkers**

New equipment we are advised will enable the bunker sand to be raked more efficiently. We still believe the sand is not the best!

### **Tree removals**

We hoped this work would have taken place but reasons of safety with the hot dry conditions means it will probably be later this year for this work to take place.

### **Irrigation**

This major budget expense is still on this year's agenda but we remain unsure as when it will start. We believe it should start this year but all funds are controlled by the owner and whilst funds have recently come through for fertilizer etc. the committee remain unsure.

Finally we are promised that the wretched clover will be destroyed very shortly! Antonio is working with a restricted work force (4 men down) and we know that is a problem but new equipment for rough cutting is to be delivered very shortly and funding appears satisfactory. The tree root cutter is been put to great use!

Golf courses are likely to find themselves under attack but we remain optimistic that solutions will be found.

Members should feel free to ask question if they have any particular concerns.

*Stewart Harper chairman,*

*David Ford,*

*Duncan Evans.*



## Social Golf Report

### by Adrienne Buth and Stella Jeffrey

Last 23<sup>rd</sup> of April there was another Social Golf. There were 32 players and 5 ladies joined us for supper. We had chicken curry with mixed salad and chocolate cake with sauce as pudding and the staff was great as always.

We welcomed Dorothy and David Hill, Louise Baker's parents. The weather was good and the format difficult: 4 clubs and a putter. We had 8 teams of 4 and just 2 scores to count.

One player came back and said: "even my par on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Olives didn't go on the card because the 2 ladies I was playing with had a birdie!"

The winners were:

#### **Corks to Olives**

**1<sup>st</sup>** with 84 points Colin Glennon, Lucy Pye,  
Cathy Harper, Andrew Gray

**2<sup>nd</sup>** with 83 points Albert Crowley, Knut Pedersen,  
Meg Black, Liz Carver

#### **Olives to Pines**

**1<sup>st</sup>** with 80 points Bernd Görger, David Pirret,  
Louise Baker, Helga Crowley

**2<sup>nd</sup>** with 79 points Matt Venker, Harry Nordström,  
David Hill, Dorothy Hill

Next social golf will be organized by Knut Pedersen and Cathy Harper.  
The format will be "Nines" on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> of May.





## Interclub Report

### by Neil Bamber

Since my last report we have played 4 matches, last years champions Palmares defeated us 3-2 at PA, which was a disappointment for all involved.

We then played Vilamoura away at Pinhal, sadly they won by the narrowest margin of 3-2, On May 2<sup>nd</sup> we visited Parque da Floresta where we suffered a heavy defeat of 4-1 but avenged that loss on May 11<sup>th</sup> winning at home, 3.5-1.5.

We have 3 matches in June, home to Vila Sol on the 8<sup>th</sup>, then away to Silves on the 12<sup>th</sup>, finally on June 21<sup>st</sup> we visit Benamor Golf club to play Tavira.

We are currently in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Division 1, lets hope we remain there.

Neil Bamber  
*PA Interclub Captain*

MORE PHOTOS OF THE EASTER EVENTS  
**WILL BE ON THE APP**





## 2023 Tournaments

To be held at  
San Lorenzo



3rd December 2022	Mens Roll up
7th December 2022	Ladies Day
23rd December 2022	December Stableford
7th January 2023	Mens Roll up
22nd January 2023	January Stableford
25th January 2023	Ladies Day
10th February 2023	St Valentine
11th February 2023	St Valentine
26th February 2023	February Stableford
4th March 2023	Mens Roll up
17th June 2023	Mens Roll up
18th June 2023	June Stableford
9th July 2023	July Stableford
12th July 2023	Ladies Day
15th July 2023	Mens Roll up
25th July 2023	GALA Week
6th August 2023	August Stableford
17th August 2023	Ladies Day
26th August 2023	Mens Roll up
27th August 2023	Social Golf
2nd December 2023	Mens Roll up
14th December 2023	Ladies Day
17th December 2023	December Stableford





Dear Members,

I wrote to you some months ago regarding the launch of our new App.

We are now ready to go live, however to comply with data protection, we need you to do the following:

- A. Please supply us with a unique email address for title holders and associate members attached to your title. Most of you have already supplied this information. However we are looking at having all Pinheiros members registered, so please come back to me if you have not done it yet.
- B. Download the App by typing the internet address "[pagc.golfus.club](http://pagc.golfus.club)".
- C. Go to my profile and set up your profile. Please use the access code 1234, and enter your name and email address.

**If you are happy to have your name, email & Telephone number visible in the members list, press YES and if not press NO.**

**If you wish to only display your name or email, please contact Cristina to set your profile with the details you only want to show.**

Once you have sign up, you will have access to the club diary, competitions and other useful information.

In the coming weeks, we will be offering tuition in the management and operation of the app.

In the meantime, if you have any issues you wish to raise, please don't hesitate to contact Cristina or myself.

Christophe Rindlisbacher

Director of Golf